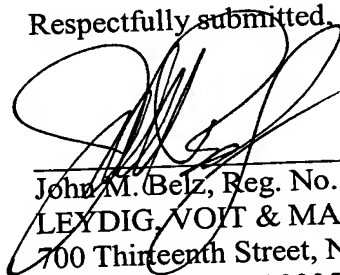


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

It is respectfully contended that independent claim 1 is patentable over "Schiavo et al." in view of the "Filter Reference Guide" and the "Pall Selection Guide". Schiavo et al. fails to disclose or suggest the problems addressed or the solutions provided by the present invention. As noted in the Office Action, Schiavo et al. fails to teach a water wettable filter medium and first and second end caps forming respective water-wettable joints with the filter medium. Consequently one skilled in the art would find no motivation in Schiavo et al., i.e., the principal reference, to turn to the "Filter Reference Guide" or the "Pall Selection Guide" for further guidance. The only reason to turn to these secondary references for guidance is taught in Applicant's specification and claimed in independent claim 1. Thus, this combination of references is an improper exercise in hindsight.

Each of new independent claims 2, 10, and 18 define a filter assembly which comprises a valve. Independent claim 1 defines a filter assembly comprising a valve which includes an annular sleeve that is movable to open and close the valve. Independent claim 9 defines a filter assembly comprising a valve which includes a rotatable sleeve arranged with a valve member to move the valve member between first and second positions, opening and closing the valve, in response to rotation of the sleeve. Independent claim 18 defines a filter assembly comprising a valve which includes a valve member movable between a smaller diameter portion of a passage and a larger diameter portion of a passage that includes a spaced ribs and grooves between the spaced ribs. Nothing in the prior art cited in the application, including United States Patent No. 4,126,559, discloses or suggests these inventions.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 6 Dec 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 6 Dec 2005